

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00382 181924Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 AGR-05 FEAE-00 INT-05

SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-10 OPR-01 A-01 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /095 W

----- 083476

O R 181832Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7409

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINS ENRG TD

SUBJECT: TEXACO REFINERY AND CARONI SUGAR INDUSTRY CLOSE DOWN

REF: A) POS 375; B) 378

1. FOLLOWING IS SITUATION REPORT 1300 HOURS LOCAL TIME FEB 18:

2. DUE TO THE SMALL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WHO REPORTED FOR WORK MORNING OF FEB 18, SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL DECIDED TO CLOSE DOWN LARGE PART OF TEXACO'S GIANT REFINERY ON GROUNDS THAT FURTHER OPERATION WOULD IN CUR

SEVERE SAFETY RISKS. (THE REFINERY'S THROUGHPUT HAD ALREADY BEEN REDUCED TO 160,000 BARRELS PER DAY--LESS THAN HALF ITS 360,000 BPD CAPACITY--DUE TO MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM THE EMPLOYEES' GO

- SLOW TACTICS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.) THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED TRINTOC REFINERY AT POINT FORTIN IS REPORTEDLY STILL OPERATING, BUT TRINTOC'S MARINE BOND AND ITS PORT OF SPAIN DISTRIBUTION OUTLET ARE C  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00382 181924Z

LOSED, THUS MOTOR GASOLINE AND SHIP BUNDERING SERVICES MAY SOON

NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT TRINIDAD. TEXACO'S SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL HAVE KEPT THE CATALYTIC CRACKER AND THE DESULPHURIZATION PLANT OPERATING, HOWEVER, WHICH WILL PERMIT RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS (AT THE "GO SLOW" PACE) THIS EVENING IF NIGHT SHIFT PERSONNEL REPORT FOR DUTY.

3. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR TEXACO OFFICIAL, ALL IS QUIET AT THE REFINERY SITE IN POINT-A-PIERRE, AND COOPERATION WITH THE HEAVILY AUGMENTED POLICE FORCES IS "EXCELLENT." A CROWD OF SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE IS GATHERING AT A SPORTS STADIUM IN SAN FERNANDO (ABOUT FIVE MILES FROM POINT-A-PIERRE) TO HEAR UNION LEADERS SPEAK AT THE MASS MEETING OF THE NEWLY-FORMED "UNITED LABOR FRONT." THIS OFFICIAL ALSO COMMENTED THAT CARONI LTD.'S SUGAR REFINERY OPERATIONS ARE COMPLETELY CLOSED DOWN, PRESUMABLY DUE TO DECISION BY MANY EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND MASS MEETING.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TEXACO AND THE UNION HAVE CEASED AND THAT IN A PARTING DEMAND SUNDAY FEB 16 THE OWTU RAISED ITS DEMANDS FOR A WAGE INCREASE FROM 80 PERCENT TO 144 PERCENT. SENIOR TEXACO OFFICIALS BELIEVE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THE GOTT, WHICH MUST FIRST FORMALLY DECLARE UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT (IRA) THAT AN UNRESOLVED LABOR DISPUTE EXISTS BEFORE IT CAN TAKE OTHER DEFINITIVE ACTION TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. REPORTEDLY, THE EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING WHICH WAS CALLED YESTERDAY (REF B), DISCUSSED SUCH A DECLARATION BUT POSTPONED ACTION.  
RICH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, SUGAR, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR ARBITRATION, LABOR DISPUTES, REFINERIES, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTO00382  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750057-1064  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750235/aaaabfik.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 POS 375, 75 378  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TEXACO REFINERY AND CARONI SUGAR INDUSTRY CLOSE DOWN  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINS, ENRG, TD, TEXACO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006